

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 6. 1707.

And HE DREAMED, and it seemed unto him as if it were, but he awoke and behold it was a DREAM.

THere was a Man and he made a Speech, and it was a Man that used to make a Speech, and it was a Man that used to make a long Speech; and the Man that made the Speech was a Lord, and this Lord made a long Speech, and at the End of this Lord's long Speech, behold another Lord stood up and made a Speech, and this was a very short Speech; but the Lord that made the short Speech, was supposed fully to have answer'd the Lord that made the long Speech; for he said unto him ——— *That he DREAMED, and it seem'd unto him as if it were, but when he awoke, behold it was a DREAM.*

I know, the malicious World will suggest all the hard things possible upon me upon this Paper, and perhaps some may have Wickedness enough to charge me with meaning a noble Lord, who has lately spoke in

Parliament at London— But as I can freely appeal to No. 45 and 16, that the above Case, in the very Letter of it, was true, both as to Persons and Things, far North of Tweed; I put in my Caveat against the prejudging, anticipating Malice of the Times, and refer my self to the Matter of Fact upon the Testimony of those honest Gentlemen of the North, and so I return to my Story.

And now this Man, *which was a Lord, and made a Speech, &c.* did many things which have been done both before and since, for he did put in his Thumb to stop the Tide at Gravesend; he did say a great Deal which he knew, or at least every Body else thought was nothing at all to the Purpose; and it is very plain, it is justifiable in Politicks so to do, because he that sees his Parent languishing, will give him all the Assistance he can, tho' he cannot recover him— And you know, giving a languishing Parent Assistance, when it is morally certain, all those Endeavours will not save his Life, contribute nothing to the Ease and Comfort of the Parent in his languishing,

languishing, and therefore are nothing to the Purpose; and attempting to save him, which is never to be despair'd of, does most excellently prove, that wise Men do attempt impossibilities.

This Speech-making Lord also told us a great many sad Stories, magnify'd all our Losses and Disasters; told us, we should lose our Trade, the Manufactures would be ruin'd, the QUEEN's Customs lost, and we should be expos'd to Shoals of Disasters, as *big as the Dutch take of Herrings, &c.* Nay, he told us expressly, he was always against the Union, by which it may be easily prov'd, he is since for keeping firm and exactly to it.

At last, *this* Lord, that made a Speech, was for enquiring, by *what Ways and Persons*, we were brought into this miserable Condition, and where do you think he brought it all to be, *Tu quoque mi Fili Squadronè*; in short a Knot of Folks call'd *the Squadronè*, an old Gorbick Word dropt long ago in the *Highlands*, which is as much as to say, being interpreted by Way of Equivalent, **THE MINISTRY.**

This Lord, that made *this* Speech, took the Root of all these Misfortunes to be in **THE MINISTRY**, and without a Change of *the Ministry*, in his Opinion no other Way would be effectual—Now, before I proceed to give my Judgment in this Matter, shall I tell you what an old Wife in this Country gave as her Opinion in the Consequences of it all.

Ay, ay, says the good old Woman, *first*, he would have them out that he might get in, and *secondly*, it would be effectual, *that is*, says she, to ruin us all.

I must confess, I think, the old Woman was much in the right, and I very seldom knew, People talk very hotly to turn out the great managing People that were in, without a Prospect to get *into their Rooms themselves*, and that is always *effectual* to something or other, as no doubt it would be a most *effectual* Way to preserve the present Union, to change the present Ministry; because they made it, and the only Way to secure it, is to put in those that were *always against it*, as the most likely to keep firm and *exactly to it*—And so much for the Affairs *Norib* by *Tweed*.

As to the Matters in the *Soub*, I am told, my Lord H— has made a Speech there too against the *ENGLISH Squadronè*; I beg his L—ships Pardon, that I have not yet forgot that beloved Name, for 'tis plain, the

Name of the Place is not lost by the Union, tho' the Name of the Kingdom is; I am not a going to answer my Lord, for since he is pleas'd to say, that all he says will prove very insignificant, it must needs be insignificant to make a Reply to it; and as I have too much breeding to put my Negative upon his Lordship, I shall readily concur with him in this, and acknowledge I think so too.—And make no Question, but his Lordship will find it a universal Opinion among his old Acquaintance, that this Attempt of his is very insignificant.

The Main of his Lordship's Discourse, if I understand it, aims at removing the Ministry, a thing his Lordship remembers, no doubt, was formerly a Practice too often, by once at least, when somebody was put out, to put somebody in, which no Body was ever the better for.

But since I absolutely concur with my Lord in his Motion for removing the present Ministry, as a thing most absolutely necessary for the Peace, Welfare and Happiness of this Nation; I think it is as proper for me to take my Lord's Method, and prove the Necessity, which I do not question to do, by most convincing and unanswerable Arguments; and tho' they may differ a little from his Lordships, yet as they may charge the Persons with more flagrant Crimes than his Lordship, and that I may do it in my plainer homely manner, with not so much Rhetorick, nor such an affecting manner, yet I claim to have my Reasons heard, and I doubt not to have them approved by some at least; for he is a bad Author indeed that has no Admirers at all.

First it is without doubt, that the whole Miscarriages of the Navy are owing to the Fault of the Ministry, because—*If the Princes Council have committed any Fault, it is very fit they should have what they deserve*—Now tho' this would be hard, they should be punish'd, when all the Fault lies upon the Ministry, yet it would be much harder to prove, that they can deserve it too.

But secondly, this is most unanswerable, and to me an unfathomable Reason, for charging the Ministry with the Miscarriages of the Navy, since it is safer in the Princes Hands, than in any other *Man's Hands*, because he owes not his Commission to the Favour of any great Minister whatsoever; and if there be any Mistake, it is impossible to be the Effect either of the Fear, or of the Anger of a

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great Minister, or a Care to please him— But not to borrow too much my Lords Words, I desire to be excused for putting them into my own.

The Ministry must of Necessity be the Authors of all the Miscarriages of the Navy, because his Highnesses Commission being perfectly independent of them, they (the Ministry) have really nothing at all to do with it, neither have they otherwise than to provide the Funds.

Again, the Ministry are certainly the Cause of all our Misfortunes, because the *QUEEN is a Princess of consummate Wisdom*, and does nothing without their Advice; I know it might unluckily be objected here; either their Advice must be good, or else if the *QUEEN* does nothing without it, Her Majesty cannot be a Princess of consummate Wisdom, but I will not affront her Majesty so grossly as to say this.

These being therefore undeniable Proofs, that all our Miscarriages lie at the Door of those, who her Majesty has thought fit to do nothing without, must needs be the best Complement can be put upon Her Majesty's consummate Wisdom, and for that Reason no doubt the Climax was observ'd, and the things coupled together.

But since I am to give my Reasons also, why I would have all those great Folks, they call *the Ministry*, turn'd out; I shall go a little into Particulars, and enumerating their Crimes, their Insufficiencies and Negligences, doubt not but to convince the Nation yet farther, that there is an absolute Necessity to dismiss them, in order to the general Happiness; and here I shall wave the general Articles, which might justify it in the Gross, such as the Policy of Government, which makes it needful to shift Hands as often as they can, to keep the Crowds of Hangers on, always depending and expecting, or the pernicious Consequences of keeping Servants too long, tho' they are never so useful, the Benefit also of now and then letting in a Knot of Knaves into the Management, to illustrate the Conduct of honest Men, and compleat the Chequer Work of State Policy—But setting aside these general Notions, I shall descend to the very People now aim'd at, and not sticking to name them, show you some most undeniable Reasons, why it is absolutely necessary to turn them out, and why to do it at this Time.

And first there is my Lord T—, and there it all centers indeed, and this great Minister of State, without removing whom you do

nothing, must be turn'd out, because he has most carelessly and negligently managed the publick Revenues, as may plainly appear by the sinking the publick Credit, and reducing the Anticipations of Money from 7 to 5 per Cent. dishonourably and ignorantly suffering the Credit of the Exchequer to fall from the glorious Discounts on Tallies, Bills, Orders, &c. of 40 to 50 per Cent. to a Par; scandalously and insolently bantering her Majesty's Subjects, by making them carry their Money back again, when they come to the Exchequer to lend it for the publick Service, and robbing her Majesty of all that Treasure, which the honest People bring in to lend, after the Funds are full—Besides this, it may be too evidently laid to his Charge, that he has always put the Parliament upon raising Money by such unhappy Ways and Means, so ill tim'd, and so ill naturedly calculated, that the Nation has lost all the Advantages of Deficiencies, and all the Benefit of Robbery and Extortion, to the manifest Ruin of the ancient and famous Manufacture of the *Splis-stick*, and depriving of their Livelihood Abundance of poor Families of Stock-jobbers, who with infinite Diligence, Industry, Knavery, and Extortion, got their Bread before by the laudable Employment of discounting Tallies, Orders, Bills, Exchequer Notes, Seamens Tickets, and the like,

For these enormous Crimes, I think, he very much deserves the Nations just Resentment, and all our Miscarriages at Sea being justly to be laid at the Door of this Minister, in Manner and Form aforesaid, as the Consequences of all this Mismanagement: I think, I need give no other or farther Reasons to prove, it is most absolutely necessary to turn him out, and put such Gentlemen in his Room, as may retrieve all these things again, and bring them to the same Circumstances, in which he found them.

I might heap up another Roll of black Crimes against him, if I thought these would not suffice to provoke you sufficiently; such as deserting the High-Church, and not encouraging the true Friends of the Nation in their most just War against the Phanaticks, but maliciously advising her Majesty to resolve upon supporting that pernicious thing called the Tolleration, which has been the Foundation of all our Michiefs and Misfortunes in the Nation; but of this by it self, when I come to speak of them all together; I proceed for the present to the rest.

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The Duke of *M*—— comes next, who tho' he be our General abroad, is a Branch of this Ministry at home, and indeed there is abundant Ground for laying him by; not only because we have such a great Variety of great and able Generals of equal Bravery and Courage, and superiour in Conduct, Experience, and Success, and therefore we ought to put them into his Place, not forgetting the brave, the sedate, the consummate, the long experienc'd General, the greatest Man of his Times, the famous *ABDOLOMENAI*, of whom hereafter.

But particularly this same great Minister has justly pull'd down the Dislike of his Country, and ought to be forthwith displac'd; for that he most rashly and inconsiderately, and Hand over Head as we call it, put the whole Fate of *England* upon the Point of the Sword, and sacrific'd his Countries Safety to the vain Trifle called *Victory*; and this not once only, but twice, to the manifest Hazard of the *Protestant* Interest in *Europe*, which he brought to such a Crisis, and to such an Extremity, that had he not recover'd himself just in the Moment, we had been all undone; nay, and at last he was fain to perfwade, nay bribe for ought we know, the *French* to run away into the *Danube*, and *GOD* knows whether, or else we might have been all ruin'd. Now is it fit to keep such a Man in the Ministry, that stakes his whole Country at one Cast, and every now and then throws at all; whereas a Man of more Temper would stand upon the *Defensive*, and so lengthen out the Mischiefs of his native Country, and let her die patiently of a Consumption, not hurry her out of her Pain, *a-la-mode, Le Coup de Grace?*

The Secretaries of State come next into the Ministry, and they ought to be turn'd out; without doubt *Mr. S— H—* in particular, because being a Man of no Letters, ignorant in the Affairs of the World, and empty of all manner of Notions about Government, a mere Novice in the Parliament, and unacquainted with the State of the Nation; besides being a Man of no Penetration, Application, or Dispatch, it is really a Shame, such a Man should be employ'd in the nice Affairs of the Nation, upon which so much depends, and which require Men of the greatest Experience to guide and direct.

My Lord *S—* also ought above all

the rest to be laid aside; and really it was a most unaccountable thing, that such a Person should be brought in, for being so strangely disaffected to the present Establishment, such an Enemy to Revolution Principles, so particularly averse to Toleration, Moderation, and all such needful things; how could they expect he should do any thing but bring Miscarriages upon us? what tho' his Lordship is a little valued for Personal Vertues, Zeal for the *QUEEN*, Faithfulness to *English* Liberty, and the like Trifles; these would become him much better, when he is no more a Minister of State—But are useless things in the present Exigence of Affairs, in which we stand in need of more Party than Policy, and more Craft than Honesty.

Neither can it be thought reasonable to trust either of our Secretaries of State any longer, for their Councils are so publick, and the publick Measures so exposed the Expeditions and Designs abroad, the Dispatches, *whereof go thro' their Hands*, are so loosely carry'd on, and so easily come at, that the *French* King presently obtains the Knowledge of our most secret Resolutions, Witness our last Years Descent; you saw there the *French* had such direct Notice, where we intended to come, that they rais'd the Country, and guarded there Coasts quite from the Coast of *Normandy* to the Bottom of the Bay of *Biscay*, being certain by their exact Intelligence, and by the Negligence of our Ministry, that if ever we made a Descent on this side the *Mediterranean*, it would be somewhere on that Coast.

Again, the Contrivance of *Toulon* was so naked and exposed, and the *French* had such easie and early Access to all our Councils, that they made nothing to furnish the necessary Troops for the Defence of that Place, and take Measures for our Disappointment almost four and twenty whole Hours before we got under the Walls of it.

These are some of the Reasons, for which I refrain making any Answer to my Lord *H—*s Speech, declaring my self entirely concurring with his Lordship's Opinion, that it is absolutely necessary we should have a Change of the Ministry; perhaps I may go a Step farther in my next, and give my brief Opinion, of who, and who is proper to put in their Places; in which I shall be as careful not to differ with his Lordship, as I have been here.